

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5575
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E.O. L1652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, PO, UK
SUBJECT: KATYN FOREST MEMORIAL

1. PRESS COMMENTARY ON SEPTEMBER 18 UNVEILING OF KATYN FOREST MEMORIAL HAS INCREASED IN LEVEL AND SCOPE, WITH BOTH "TIMES" AND "TELEGRAPH" OF SEPTEMBER 17 CARRYING EDITORIALS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF HMG DECISION TO ABSTAIN FROM OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION IN CEREMONY.
2. BOTH PAPERS IMPLY THAT HMG HAS BEEN LED INTO A "SHAMEFUL" COURSE OF ACTION (OR INACTION) BY A DESIRE TO AVOID GIVING OFFENSE TO THE USSR. IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL, ENTITLED, "THE STIGMA OF KATYN," THE "TIMES" CONTRASTS THE POSITION OF HMG WITH THAT OF USG, NOTING, "THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, RESPECTING THE FINDING OF THE MADDEN COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN 1952 WHICH CONCLUDED THAT THE MASSACRE DID INDEED OCCUR IN 1940, IS TO BE OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED."
3. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET BEEN QUERIED BY ANY REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. MEDIA, BUT SHOULD ANY SUCH INQUIRIES ARISE, WE SHALL STICK TO PRESS LINE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

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ARMSTRONG

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NNN

Message Attributes

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